years, the Government of Bangladesh and various trade bodies in the country have shown keen interest to forge greater economic and commerical links with North-East India. The Government of Bangladesh, has not suggested any specific joint venture projects with buyback arrangements. However, several Bangladeshi trade delegations have been visiting North-East and regularly participating in trade fairs and seminars organised in Agartala, Shillong and Guwahati.

Virignia Tobacco barns in the country

2340. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Virignia tobacco barns in the country;

(b) the number of such tobacco barns in Andhra Pradesh which are recognized by the Tobacco Board;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Tobacco Board has a scheme to modernise such tobacco barns;

(d) if so, details to this plan; and

(e) the funds earmarked for this purpose to help tobacco farmers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) There are 95,958 licensed barns in the country.

(b) For the crop season 2004-05 there are 40,130 licensed barns in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As a part of fuel conservation measures, the barns are modernized through improved design of furnace and roof insulation.

(e) The budget provisions for this scheme are as under:—

2004-05	-	Rs. 87 lakhs
2005-06	-	Rs. 62 lakhs